

THE
COUNTRY-MANS
RUDIMENTS:
OR,
An ADVICE

To the FARMERS in *EAST-LOTHIAN*
how to Labour and Improve their
Ground.



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DEDICATION.

To the Young Nobility and Gentry of Scot- land.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THere needs no Rhetorick to illustrate the many and great Advantages, that accretes to a Nation by the diligent Practice and due Incouragement of Husbandrie. The thing speaks for it self: Neither need I tell you, how Worthy, Noble and Excellent an Imployment it is, for those whom GOD hath blessed with large and opulent Heretable Possessions. It is indeed an Imploy below no man, no not of Kings and Princes; The Holy Writ records the same of *Uzziab*, as one of his best Characters. *Cicero* in his *Cato major*, treats very largely of it, and in his most excellent Book of Offices, penned for his Son *Marcus* to direct him in his Youth, Life and Conversation: He says, *that of all Beneficial Industrie, certainly there is not any thing more agreeable or more worthy of a man of Honour and Reason, than the Culture and Improvement of the Earth.*

Of the Exercices of Husbandrie, *Hiero*, *Philometer Attalus* and *Archelaus*, all Kings, have writ most fully; *Zenophon* and *Mago* have done the like and besides them *Cato*, *Varro*, *Pliny*, *Col-lumella*, *Virgil*, *Cressentius*, *Palladius*, and many

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others of later times, not a few of the Antients have placed the *summum bonum* in them, and have deified these men, who were most famous in that Profession, as *Appollo*, who fed the Herds of *Admetus* King of *Thessaly*, *Mercury* and his Son *Daphnis*, *Pan* and *Protheus*.

Virgil calls Husbandmen fortunate, and *Horace* Blessed; to fortifie this, the Oracle of *Delphus* pronounced *Aglaus* the most happy man (when the Potent and Rich *Craesus* did expect the Honour,) and that because he had a little Farm in *Arcadia*, and never stirred from it; it is therefore no dishonour, for your Honours to apply your selves this way, which was so highly Honoured among the Antients, which was no ways shameful, for many *Roman* Emperors, and most Potent Kings, not only to direct (which is all I require of you) but also to Till, Sow, Graft and Plant their own Lands; This did *Dioclesian*, and *Attalus*, having voluntarily quited their Empires to follow this Course of Life. *Cyrus* also, that great Monarch, when his Friends came to see him, was wont to Glory in nothing more than in a Garden of his own Planting. *Seneca* Planted Plain Trees (a Tree indeed which I recommend to be Planted near Gentlemens Houses, and on their Avenues) and digged Fish-ponds with his own hands, he delighted to be no where more willingly then in the Fields, where he is said to have studied that most excellent Book of Morals. In a Word, it was thought so truly Honourable, that the most Noble & Ancient Families had their Rise and Surname from some particular Countrey

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Employments, as the *Fabii-Lentulii*, the *Ciceroes*, *Pisces*, from these Grains, the *Bubulci*, *Statilii*, *Tauri*, *Pompenii*, *Vituli*, *Vitelli*, *Percii*, *Catoes*, *Aunii*, *Caprii*, and many others, from their different Herdings; and tho' *Cornelius Agrippa* in his *Vanity of Sciences*, doth abundantly Satyrise all other Employments, yet he hath nothing to say against this, but that it is the effect of Sin, that makes us be at all this pains, which we must all acknowledge.

I must confess, that I am very well satisfied to see so much Industry of late, about the Dwelling-Houses of the most of the Nobility, and Gentry within this Kingdom; As also, so great Prone-ness and Inclination for Trade, and that be very sorry, if they meet not with due Incouragement from the Government.

I am glad also, to hear, that His Majesty is not very well pleased with our vaging Abroad, nor with our Unnecessar and Expensive Court Attendancies.

All these things makes me to hope, that your Honours will set up, for what is the real and true Interest of your Countrey, and for that which in time, will tend to your own particular Profite, and the Aggrandizing of your Families.

And really, when I now consider the great Scarcity that hath happened for several years by-gone, next unto the just Judgement from GOD upon us for our Sins, I must impute it in part, to our great neglect of Husbandrie, and therefore, as the sensible effects of the sad Calamity, ought to be a Spur to all sincere Christians to humble themselves for their Sins, which bring

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on such Judgements, so it ought to be an Incitement to all those, whom God hath blessed with Estates to Double their Diligence in the Improvement of their Grounds, and that not only by precept but example, that the Land be not reduced to utter Misery.

I shal not multiply words upon this matter, tho' the Theam be very large and capacious, the Subject matter being so obvious to every man: But shall only say a few things.

Husbandrie enlarges a Countrey, and makes it as if ye had conquered another Countrie adjacent thereto; And I am sure, a Conquest by the Spade and the Plough, is both more just, and of longer continuance, then what is got by Sword and Bow.

Husbandry gives Imployment to many poor people, and sure they are much better employed so, then under the masquerade name of a Soldier in time of peace

Husbandry breeds up and accustoms men to Labour, which as it keeps a Nation from many Vices, which are the ordinar Concomitants of Idleness; So when necessity requires, it fits and enables them for warlike Performances, much better then by any formal, idle, lazie way of Driviling; and this *Cato* and *Vegetius* affirms.

The *Romans* thought it no Disparagement to take their Generals from the Plough, and they thought it no dishonour to return to the same again; they thought toil and labour to be the best way of exercising their Soldiers, and this their Camps, Ways, Theaters, Baths, Aqueducts, and Form of Military

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tary Discipline, which consisted of long Marches, speedily performed, under the load of Weighty Armour, both Offensive & Defensive, as also Provision; doth abundantlie testifie.

In fine, Husbandrie is the Stock, and Trade the Improvement of that.

Husbandrie is the Foundation, and Trade the Superstructure.

Husbandrie furnishes Materials for Trade, and maketh Barter go for Money, so that we Trade with our Goods, and bestows our Money at Home, amongst our own People, which still tends for the further Improvement of our Lands.

Up then brave Youths, leave off Courts and Politicks, especially when at so great distance from you, and in another Kingdom: Follow Husbandrie and Trade, two necessary Twins, who like Man and Wife, ought not to be separated.

To what a prodigious greatness do ye see other Nations have come to, who, before the Union of the two Crowns, were not to be accounted much above us, and this all by Husbandrie and Trade, which we have hitherto neglected, whether by a plain and singular stupidity, or by some other ill made Bargains, I shal not venture to determine.

If you fall to this then in good earnest, laying aside the general advantage to the whole Nation, I am perswaded you shal find more pleasure and profit this way, then in the old troden Path to London, and in time this old Distict verified.

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*Non minor est virtus quam querere parta tueri
Casus inest illic, hic erit artis opus.*

Which strain'd to our purpose, may run thus.
*Its no less vertue to improve our Lands,
Then to gain more from other Bankrupt-bands.
The first's true management, the others lot,
Be not then wise behind hand, as the Scot.*

Go on then Noble young Men, and by your
Example, let the People under you see how to
do; For I must say again, we are all more taken
by Example, then by Precept: I have indeed
good hopes of this rising Generation, and I hope
they shal both see their Predecessors Errors, and
fall upon good Mediums to redeem their evil
spent time, and thereby shall evite the Conse-
quences of many poor unfortunate Courtiers; as
the Poet expresseth it,
*Vitam animas, opera & sumptus, impendimus aula.
Præmia pro meritis quæ retributa putas?
Aula dedit nobis rescripta vixit & papiro,
Et sine mente sonos & sine corde manus
Paucos beavit aula, plures perdidit
Sed & hos quoque ipsa quos beavit perdidit.*

I shall trouble your Honours no further, now
that I think I have used Reason enough to per-
swade you to so good and necessar a Work; But
in case of obstinacy, that I may leave you with-
out excuse, and that I may have this to say for
my self, that neither Rhime nor Reason could
convince you, of what is infallibly both your Du-
ty and Interest: I shall conclude with, and set
before you, the Opinions of two very famous
Courtiers, *Horace* and *Buchanan*, the one a fa-
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vorite of the favorite *Mæcenæ*s, and the other of the Earl of *Murray*, commonly called the good Regent.

Horace Epod. 2.

*Beatus ille, qui procul negotiis
Ut prisca Gens mortalium,
Paterna rura bobus exercet suis,
Solutus omni jœnere.*

Before Ambition, Malice, Envy, Strife,
Had found the way to shorten humane life :
Before the use of Gold came in Request,
Solid Contentment was mans only Guest ;
Before vain Titles, and a Court were Known,
Man lived Tranquilly on what was his own,
He owed no Debt, neither had ought to crave,
Save what from his own Lands he hop'd to have.
His Fathers Lands therefore with care he plowes.
With lowing Bullocks, them in time he sowes
With hopeful Grain, which quickly doth afford,
A just requital to its frugal Lord.
So all his Val's with Fruitful Corn abound,
His Pastours green with Flocks are chequered
round,

*Non excitatur cassido miles truci :
Nee Horret iratum mare :
Forumque vitas, & superba Civium
Potentiorum limina.*

Nor is he rais'd by *Mars* his hot allarm,
Neither from angry *Neptun* fears he harm,
He shuns Law Suits, and so needs not attend
in Anti-Chambers of big looking Men,

Ergo

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*Ergo aut adultæ vitium propagine
Altas maritat populus :
Inutileque falce ramos amputans.
Feliciores interit.*

But as his Vines grow up he doth apply
Both Art and pains them carefully to ty
To some straight Pole he prunes the fruitful
(Vine,

The Barren he roots out, and plants again.

Aut in reducta valle mugientium

Prospectat errantes greges :

Aut pressa puris mella condit amphoris ;

Aut tendit infirmas oves ;

Sometimes in bending val's, he's pleas'd to see

The bellowing wandering Herds feed quietly,

At other times the woolly Flocks he shears,

And the sweet honey from its Comb he clears,

And stores it up for the enshewing years.

Vel cum decorum mitibus pomis caput :

Autumnus arvis extulit ;

Ut gaudet, insitiva decerpens pyra,

Certantem & uvam purpureæ ;

But when long look't for Harvest shews his head

Adorn'd with Fruits of which we stand in need

How doth he joy to pull the grafted Pear,

And clustred grapes, which smallest twigs do bear

Whose purple colour doth by far excell

The purpled robes of Kings on earth who dwell.

Qua muneretur te, priape, & te, pater.

Sylvane tutor finium.

Therefore to the Precipus praise redounds ;

And to Sylvanus the Guardian of our bounds.

Libet jacere modo sub antiqua ilice ;

Modo in tenasi gramine.

Labuntur

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*Labuntur altis interim ripis aquae
Queruntur in Sylvis aves.
Fontesque lymphis obstreant manantibus:
Somnos quod invitet leves.*

For by your care we free from anxious thoughts
safely rest under the Oaks Shaddie Boughs;
Anone in some green Meadow down we ly,
While from high Banks the pearled Streams
gly'd by.

As carefull Nurse, when Babes go to their rest,
Chant furth some Sonnet such as please them best.
So do the Birds their Tenor, Trible, sing
Amidst the Groves, while Fountains murmuring,
Does beat a Counter Bass, and doth intrap
The painful Plow-man in a quiet nap.

*At cum torantis annus hibernus jovis,
Imbres, Nivesq; comparat,
Aut trudit acreis hinc & hinc multa cane.
Apros in obstantes plagas.
Aut ameti levi rara tendit retia,
Turdus edacibus dolos;
Pavidumque leporem, & advenam laqueo gruem
Fucunda captat premia.*

But when cold Winter comes with Rains and
Snows,

His hoarie Head with purled locks he shows
By Jov's command, then doth the painful
Swain,
Order his subtil toils, and then doth strain
By force of cures the wildest Boars therein,
Or else by slihter Nets, whole Nights doth
watch,

The hungry Black-bird in his Snares doth catch
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By Gms the fearful Hare and Stranger Swan
Falls as a victim to she Husband-man.

*Quis non malarum quas amor curas habet,
Hæc inter obliuiscitur ?*

Amidst these pleasures innocent and just
Who will not soon forget the ills of Lust.

*Quod si pudica mulier in partem iuuet,
Domum atque dulces liberos:*

*Sabina qualis, aut perusta solibus,
Permictis uxor appuli:*

*Sacrum & vetustis extruat lignis focum
Lassi sub adventum viri:*

*Claudem,que textis cratibus latum pecus
Distenta siccet ubera:*

*Et horna dulce vina promens dolio
Dapes inemptas apparet:*

But if you have a Chaste and Virtuous Wife,
The true support and comfort of mans life,
Who bears her part in your Domestick cares,
And manages your Childrens small Affairs,
Like to Sabina, or brave Appules Dame,
Who by Sols Rays lovely, but black became,
Her Household fire with seasoned wood does burn
As she attends her wearied Lords return.

She also doth the skipping Ewes restrain
Within their twitted Folds, that she may
drain

Their well stored Duggs of all their Milkie
gain.

So from sweet Hog-heads cleaned she draws
her Wine,

Both fresh and brisk, that he & she may dine
On unbought Dainties neatly cookt in time.

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*Non me lucrina juverint conchyliis,
Magisque rhombus, aut scari,
Si quos Eois intonata fluctibus
Hiems ad hoc vertat mare;
Non astra avis descendat in ventrem meum,
Non attagen ionicus
Fecundior; quam lecta de pinguissimis
Olivæ Ramis arborum
Aut herba lappathi præta amantis, & gravi
Adæva salubres corpori
Vel agna festis caesa terminalibus,
Vel hædus creptus lupo.*

*Lucrinas Oysters, nor the Turbot Square,
Neither the Scarian Fish, the gild-head rare
May with these Dainties any ways compare,
The Scarian Fish is said to chaw the Cood,
And may be found after an Eastern Flood,
And is accounted most delicious Food,
I have no Gust for Afficks choicest Fowl,
The Asian Black-Cock I love with my Soul,
And yet in pleasant taste it can't compare
With a green joicie O ive pulled with care,
Nor with a Lamb kill'd at abounding Feast,
Nor with a Kid catcht from a Ravenous Beast.
When drest and dill't by fair Sabinas Laws,
With wholesome mallos Meadows Sorrel sauce,
Has inter epulas, ut jureat pastas oves
Videre properantes domum;
Videre fesses vomerem inuertum boves
Cello trabentes languido:
Atque vernas, diu examen Domus
circum residentes lares.*

Amidst

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Amidst your Banquets when with ease you see,
Your fattied flocks come home most joyfully:
Also your Oxen when their labours done,
With wearied necks chaff'd by the Showers,
and Sun,
Their revers'd Plows lay down at their re-
turn.

The numerous Off-spring of your homely Cell
Thus by your care in Riches doth excell
*All others wants by change you can supply,
Thus happily you live, and thus you die.*
*Hæc ubi lecutus: fæneratur Alpbius,
Jam jam futurus rusticus,
Omne religit Idibus pecuniam:
Querit Calendus parere.*

By this Discourse Alpheus highly charm'd,
And for a Countrey life is bravely arm'd,
Recals his Money, and resolves no more
To be a scourge and Tyrant to the poor.
But in a Four-nights time his mind doth change
And in its wonted Usuries doth Range
*To take from Flesh what is bred in the bone,
All men may see how hardly it is done.*

G. Buchannani Baptistes, Chorus 1.

*Ficta crudelis pietas tyrannos,
Impios mores sola sîmbriata
Celati in pano tenui recondit
Nuda se virtus tuguri sub umbra
Rustici, nec se titulis superbis
Vendit: insanoque fori tumultus
Ridet, & plausus popularis aure
Nec ilicns magni foribus prioni
Assidet vitæ tacitos beata
Rure secreto sibi nota tantum
Exigit annos.*

To

To the Reader.

Custom hath decreed, that any Treatise, how small and trivial soever, is not worth a Farthing, if it want a Preface and Dedication, tho' the Author should know nothing to say for himself, save to Deprecat the Readers Wrath, and beg his Mercy.

I fear this will not serve my turn, for these brave and gallant Sparks, to whom I have Dedicated this Schedule, will stop their Ears and Cry: They are the melancholy Fancies of some old Casheired Courtier: The present Court-Favorites will laugh at me, and think they know better things: The Soldier will cartill me, and plunder me too, if he can: The Husband man will Curse me for doubling their Labours: The Land-lords will maligne me for favouring the Peomanrie so much: The Lawyers will revile me as an ignorant enemy to their Employment: The Grammerians will rail at me for breaking Prissians head so often: The Rhetoricians will redicule my homely Stile; And above all, the Poets will insult over me, for invading their Province with my barbarous pallery neconsistant Rhyme.

In short, there are many more whom I will not name, who will give me no thanks for my pains, and no doubt Phisilogists, Logicians and Sophisters will consult how to destroy all my arguing by their Sylogistical Sophismes.

But for the veracitie of the thing it self, and my integrity in the design, I give them all a fair Defi-

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ance. for the seat of Truth is in the Heart, not in the Tongue- neither imports it how we tell Truth, since falshood only wants Eloquence.

Euripides calls Truth plain and simple, and Theophrastus says the most ignorant are very well able to speak before the most learned, when they say nothing but what is true and reasonable; Therefore to speak Intelligibly not Rhetorically, to intend the truth of the Matter not the Ornament of the Language, is the duty of every plain, honest ingenuous man.

I know the Style and Rhyme, is indeed as rude and unpolite. as the most censuring can call it; but the subject Matter is Excellent, Profitable, and National.

A pretty man is nothing the worse of being clothed in a homely Dress, and I think the Plowman hath as good a Priviledge to coin words as the most learned Philosophers. and the one is as good and significant as the other.

To conclude Tho. the Poesy take not with the more delicate & refined Spirits yet it will go very well down with the Shearers in a Harvest day, or with the whistling Plowman at his Plow, and I think it may answer well enough to the tune of Down the Burn Davie, with small reduplication. To the carping and Satyrical Critick, I only say,

Carpere vel noli mea vel ede tua.

Qui Mœvium non odit amet tua carmina Lœli.

Your humble Servitor, A, B, C,

Advice

Advice to the Farmers of East-Lothian.

THere are many large and learned Treatises of Husbandry, which indeed contain all that is necessary for the Management and Improvement of Grounds to the best Advantage ; But these Books are either so dear and ill to be had, that they cannot be easily got by ordinar Farmers; or else they are so general and intricat, and the Mannurs or Goodings proposed so difficult to be purchased, that they lose themselves in a Labyrinth, not knowing well what Method to follow, amongst so many proposed, and thereby are wholly discouraged.

Such Treatises also propose different ways of ordering Grounds according to the different nature of Soils, and that most prudently: but yet it leaves the honest Husbandman who is generally Illiterat, to guess what will prove best for his Grounds, which readily doth occasion Mistakes in the Application.

This cannot well be prevented, but by a
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particular Treatise for a particular Shire or Bounds of Land, whereof the person who gives his Advice hath particular Knowledge, and hath made it his Business to understand the Husbandmens way of Labouring, and the Faults and Defects thereof.

This small Treatise is therefore principally designed for *East-Lothian*: but there is no Barr nor Let why other places may not follow the same method, if their Ground and Soil will allow.

Although I am not to say any thing altogether new, or unheard of before: nor are you to expect extraordinary Inventions from me; yet I dare be bold to say there was never such a good, easy Method of Husbandry as this, so succinctly extensive and methodical in all its parts published before. Neither shall I affright you with Hedging, Ditching, Marling, Chalking, Pairing and Burning, Draining, Watering, and such like, which are all very good Improvements indeed, and very agreeable with the Soil and Situation of *East-Lothian*: but I know ye cannot bear as yet, such a croud of Improvements, this being only intended to initiate you in the true Method and principles of Husbandry. I shall begin with the easiest first, and as I find you take and practise it, you shall hear more & the sooner from me. I shall then as briefly and

and plainly as possible, and in your own Terms and manner of speaking give my Opinion (with all submission to better Judgments) how to order your Grounds for the best Advantage, that so you may work more by the Head, and less by the Hands.

The Soil of *East-Lothian* generally taken, is accounted the best of any County or Shire in *Scotland*; and although it pays too dear a Rent, yet it is as capable to be Improven beyond what it is at present as any in *Scotland*.

The poor Farmers that they may pay their dear Rent who are ordinarily industrious enough, work hard, but without any Method or Project, whereby both they and their Grounds suffer, and so consequently the Landlord.

In *East-Lothian* the Farm Rooms as they are commonly called, are divided or distinguished in Infield and Outfield Land: that is to say, in these Lands where they lay their Dung yearly, and these upon which they never lay any Dung.

The Infield Land (where Wheat is sown) is generally divided by the Tennent into four Divisions, or Breaks as they call them, viz. One of Wheat, one of Barley, one of Pease, and one of Oats; so that the Wheat is sown after the Pease, the Barley after the Wheat, and the Oats after the Barley.

The Outfield-Land is ordinarily made use fromiscously, for feeding of their Cows, Horse, Sheep and Oxen, Its also dunged by their Sheep who ly in Earthen Folds; & sometimes when they have much of it, they Fauch or Fallow a part of it yearly.

As to the Method for Labouring the Ground where Wheat is sown, it is absolutely impossible that any Soil how good soever, can hold out with profit to the Farmer, by this rude way of ordering it; unless it be some parcel of Ground adjacent to some Burgh or Villadge, where they can have plenty of Dung, or to the Sea, where they can have plenty of Sea Ware.

The *English* who indeed excel in the Knowledge of Husbandry, do not handle their Grounds (tho' very good) so rudely; the Ground must rest, as well as the Husbandman, if you expect favour from it.

Therefore I have known and seen, that in the best and fertilest Soils in *England* for Corn, the fourth or third part of their Infield-Land rest yearly; but most ordinarily a third. Yea I have seen in several good and fertile Grounds, as in *Leicester*, *Northampton* and *Worcester* Shires, the whole third of their Infield-Land ly Fauch, by which Method, they did sow both their Wheat and Barley after Fauch; then their Oats after their Barley

Barley and Pease after the Wheat. And indeed I observed their Corns extraordinary good; for such gentle Treatment of the Ground, did not only cause a great Birth of Stalks upon the Ground, but made the Stalks and consequently the Head so strong that it did not fall down and grow floumy as some would fancy it would do. And the Husbandmen told me, that they had tryed several ways but by this Method they found most Profit, although they were not able to dung the third part of their Land that lay Fauch.

But I will not urge new Beginners too far at first, lest they scare and prove skittish, and so throw off my Advice altogether, as ungroken Colts do their Riders. In the first place, therefore I shall advise such as sow Wheat & whose Ground is of the best and in the best Condition; to divide or cast their Infield Land into five equal Breaks; whereof two Breaks of Pease, one of Wheat one of Barley, and another of Oats. By this Method you shall sow both your Wheat & Barley after Pease, which without all question is the far better Method than that which is at present more generally used. This although it be the better way than the former, in four Breaks, yet it is no ways sufficient to bring your Ground into any tolerable state

and condition, unless you Fauch also.

Therefore, I advise you in the next place, to Fauch or Fallow some part of these two Breaks designed for Pease.

I will not positively determine how much you shall leave resting of these two Breaks, lest I discourage you too much ; but I dare affirm, the more you leave, the greater Advantage ; yet much of that must depend upon the prudence of the Farmer. If his Ground be in any tollerable condition, he may Fauch the less ; I say tollerable: For I do assure you, there are none, or at least, very little, in so good a condition as the goodness of the Soil is capable of: So that I think of the best Grounds, a third at least of each of these two Breaks designed for Pease, may ly Fauch ; and the half where the Grounds are not so good : which may be thus ordered. The third part of that Break of Pease, fauched and designed to be sown with Wheat the ensuing year, must be plowed about the *Martinmas*. That is to say, after your Wheat is sown for that year, fallow down that third part of the pease-break designed for Wheat the next year ; so that the first thing you are to do after Harvest, is to Till and Sow your Wheat for the year to come : and the next to that, is to Till and Fallow for the Wheat to be sown the year thereafter.

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The reason why I would have you fallow it so early is, that it may get all the Winter Frost, but be sure to plow it with also shallow or thin a Furrow as ye can, that it may only rot the Stubble, and render the ground below mellow and soft for the next plowing

The first plowing, must be, that they call gathering of the Rigs to an hght, that where the Ground is moist, it may ly dry all the Winter time, and consequently be fitter for the next plowing, which is called Cleaving.

Your second Plowing must be about the end of *June*, or beginning of *July* between and which time you must have soyled your Ground with all the Dung, Lime, or any other Mannure during the whole Winter & Spring bypast; For I do not look upon it as good Husbandrie to lead out your Dung in the Winter time for your Wheat-fauch, because much of its Stength is taken away by the Winter Rains, neither in the Summer time, till immediatly before the second plowing, because much of its Spirit and Goodness is exhailed by the Summer-Sun and withering Wind.

This second plowing must be by cleaving the Rigs, a Term so well known that it needs no Explanation; but be sure to plow it as deep as ye can, that the new Earth may

may be brought upmost against the ensuing Seed time : And after it is so plowed, you must harrow it well by Thortering, that is to harrow cross the Rigs, as also the ordinar way ; by which Method you shall bring the Crowns and Furrows of the Rigs to an equal thickness of Earth, and recover all the Couch-grass and other Weeds, ordinarily called Wrack from amongst it, and thus it may ly till *Michaelmas*, or the time your Corns are got in.

Then let it be the first Land you plow after your ordinar way for Seed, having first led out any other Goodings ye have purchaled since your last plowing ; Plow it with a tollerable deep Furrow, that it may cover the Seed well, and endure the Winter washing Rains the better.

Nota, I have observed, that abroad, wheretheir Grounds are very light & Stenory, they have sown Wheat and Barley upon the Surface of the Earth after the second Plowing, then tilled it over with a thin Furrow, and sometimes harrowed it over thereafter, and sometimes not ; which no doubt is a very good Method of Husbandrie, and may be practised with advantage where the Grounds will allow : This in their terms is called under-fowing.

By thus ordering your Fauch, with plow
when

ng when the two parts of the same Break upon
 ou which Pease grew that year, and likewise de-
 is signed, for wheat will not, by reason of the
 di dry Season which ordinarily attends that
 g time of the year, and so it will prove your
 to earlyest Wheat, will soon take Root, the Body
 all of the Pickle will be turned to a Root, like
 ar- that of Grass or other Herbs before the Win-
 us ter Frosts and cold Rains, and consequent-
 ur ly be free from being slain, blecked, and ma-
 ter ny oser Inconveniencies ; the being free
 led of which, beside many other Advantages, is
 led more than sufficient to recompence you for
 n a all your pains.

As for the third part of your Break of
 ver Pease, fauched and designed for Barley, I
 sh- think ye need not plow it till about *Lamb-*
 eir *mass*, by which ye will gain the whole Win-
 ve ter and Summars-Grass.

Nota, though you have a Cropt both of
 ace your fauched Wheat and Barley both in one
 en and the same year, yet the Ground rests
 ne- two Winters and one Summer for Barley,
 ne- whereas it rests only one Winter and one
 od Summer for Wheat : This being considered,
 sed as also that the Barley is not so impoverish-
 al- ing a Grain as the Wheat, you may expect
 der- as good a Cropt of the Barley as of the Wheat
 ow though you should lay less Dung and Good-
 nen ing upon it.

It cannot therefore be expected, that ye can lay any Summer-dung upon your Barley Fauch, unless it be Sea-ware to these Lands that ly contiguous to the Shore, or Burgh Dung to these who are adjacent to a Town, because the Wheat being to be first sown, will require all you can make, but after your Wheat is sown, let all you can purchase be laid on your Barley-fauch betwixt and the next plowing.

The next plowing, or Steering as they call it, must be at or about *Candlemas* (the ground being alwise dry,) both Plowing and Harrowing being after the same manner you did with your Wheat-Fauch.

The Reason why I advise you to lay on your Dung at this time is, because Winter dung not having time to come to a perfect Corruption and Consistence, when laid on at Seed time, if the Season prove dry by its internal Heat, does much more Prejudice than good to the Barley, whereas being laid on at this early stirring time, it not only impregnats the Earth with it's Heat, but is also fully incorporat with the Earth against the next plowing.

Though the Wheat be quite otherwise ordered, as I have shoven already, yet the full Corruption of the Dung at that time of the year, and the succeeding Winter-Season,
pre

prevents these last named Inconveniencies,
and tends rather for it's advantage.

You may possibly ask me, why I advise
you to stir your Barley so soon.

It's because of the early Fallowing of it,
for it it should ly untouched till *March* or
April, the ordinar time of Stirring the Bear-
land with you, the Grasse would begin to
take root and Spring, and it would be grown
too much to it self, (as they call it) and so
the design of Fauching Fail in part.

Next, I advise thee of Stirring it so soon
that in case ye find it not in so good a con-
dition as you desire, as sometimes it falls
out, when the Winters prove Rainy, without
Frosts, especially in Clay-grounds, that then
you may give it another Furrow before
you sow it, and this you may do in *March* or
April, according to your accustomed man-
ner; But then you must remark, that if
ye give it but three Furrows, as generally will
hold, you must sow it with the first of your
Barley, but if you be necessitat to give it
four Furrows, it must be sown amongst the
last, for there must be a competent time be-
twixt the two last plowings, that in light
& Couch-grass grounds, the Weeds and Grass
may breard and spring up, and in Clay
grounds that the Earth may come again to
some closneis and consistency, and resume its

natural Moisture before the Barley be sown. Fa
fir always deep, that new Earth may be ye
brought up, as I said of the Wheat. For qu
the last plowing called Seed-furrowing, let O
your Furrows be as thin and narrow as in
can be, and as small harrowed as possible
for it has no Winter Colds nor Frosts to ve
bide, however let it be duely Water-fur fir
rowed, if the Ground require it; for oft to
times a sudden Spair of Rain scalds the ten qu
der Grain, and thereby the surface of Pe
the Ground becomes more hardned when co
dry Weather comes thereafter. the

In these Grounds where no Wheat is sow- scr
en, where the Ground is good, the Infield- far
Land is ordinarily divided in three Divisi- stil
ons or Breaks, Pease, Barley and Oats; so for
that the Barley is sown after the Pease, and of
the Oats after the Barley. All that I shall say di
upon this, is only to remark, That where of
the Tennent pays his Rent much in Barley, of
he is oft-times necessitat to sow Barley after
the Oats, as well as after the Pease, which I we
look upon to be none of the best ways of Gr
Husbandrie. Where the Tennent pays there- ma
fore much Barley, I do advise him to cast de
his Ground in four equal Breaks, viz. Pease no
Barley, Oats, and one in Fauch, which on
must ly after the Crop of Oats. the

Labour and Manure the fourth Break of
Fauch

er Fauch as I have ordered before ; and thus
 by ye will not only be able to sow a double
 quantity of Barley, without sowing any after
 e Oats, but also ye will find your Ground fall
 a into a good Condition.

e But if that Method, which indeed is the
 o very best, be too harsh a Pill to swallow at
 r first ; then I shall propose, that according
 t to your own Prudence, ye may make what
 u quantity ye please ; Fauch either of your
 o Pease or Oat breaks, such as are in worst
 n condition, but rather of your Oat-Break ;
 v then Labour and Manure it as is above-pre-
 l scribed, and ye shall find great benefit by the
 i same. Thus much of the Infield-Land ; but
 o still the more Ground ye Labour as is be-
 d fore advised, the more profit.

y Before I proceed to speak of the ordering
 e of the Outfield-Land, I must remove an or-
 y, dinary Objection against what I have said
 r of Fauching of the Infield-Land.

I The Farmers with whom I speak, tells me
 f we have a dear Rent to pay, and all our
 - Ground is little enough to pay the same, we
 st may not spare so much yearly unsown.

e But their Advantage is the very thing I
 b design ; and there cannot be a good Master,
 f nor a good Countreyman, who looks not up-
 b on the Tennents profit as his own. I do
 therefore intreat you seriously to consider
 this

this which followeth, and your Objection
evanisheth.

Suppose you leave as much Fauch as would
have sown you three Bolls of Barley, and
that reasonably you might expect the third
Increase, by which you would have gained
six Bolls beside your Seed, three threes being
nine, three your Seed, six is the product. Now
this I confess you lose for one year only ;
now see how you are repayed with more
than triple Interest.

You sallow three Bolls of Barley sowing,
and having ordered it as is before said, you
may reasonably expect the sixth Increase. For
this I do assert and maintain, and Experi-
ence shal make every man know it, that what
ever Ground will yield the third, fourth or
fifth, by the ordinar Custom will double
it by this Method for three years to come :
and at the end of these years, leave it in a
better condition than it found it; for a good
Cropt of Corns makes a good Stubble, and a
good Stubble is the equalest Mucking that is.
And I must say this by the by, that if in
East-Lothian they did not leave an higher
Stubble than in other places of the Kingdom,
their Grounds would be in a much worse
condition than at present they are, though
bad enough.

Now three times six being eighteen, your

See d

Seed being three, the Product is fifteen; of which allowing six for the year it lay Fauch, and six that it would have produced the second year if it had not been fauched, which makes twelve; yet all is repayed you by the very first Crop after Fauch, and three Bolls more; for twelve and three make fifteen, which was the Product.

Then for the other two succeeding years, according to the above named Calculation, ye have thirty Bolls increase besides your Seed, & three of Gain for the first Crop, in all thirty three; from which you must deduct twelve of Increase for two years more, that the same Ground would have produced, though it had not been fauched; so twelve from thirty three, there remains twenty one; by this it is evident, that the Farmer gains twenty one Bolls in three Crops. By this new Method of three Bolls sowing, more than he would have done by four Crops of the like quantity of Seed the ordinary way; and leaves his Land to the Boot, in a much better Condition than what it was formerly. But suppose you shall continue for ten or twelve years this way, still increasing the quantity of your Fauch, as ye see cause, what a vast Difference will arise, such a prodigious Increase as shall leave no room for Comparisons. I shall not therefore trouble you with any further calcul I am afraid some of you will be puzzled enough to understand what I have said already; but I hope in time, Experience will make you find it: and then a full Purse, and full Belly, warm Cloaths, and a good Stock, will persuade more then all my Rhetorick, or Arithmetick can do,

B

And

And to encourage you to this Method, I think your Masters should forbear for two or three years, the Rent of any such Land as you lay Fauch proportionally; by which to your own Conviction, I am sure the strength of your Objection is taken off, and in that time you will have enough to repay the same.

As for the Outfield Land, which is ordinarily the highest, lying dryest, and worst Grounds.

In *East-Lotbian* the ordinar way of Labouring these Lands is by Folding, Fauching & Lyming.

As for the making of Sheep-folds of the Surface of the Earth, digged up with many little Divisions, that the Sheep and other Bestial may Dung them the more equally. Though it be no where so much practised as in the *Lotbians*, and in the *Merse*, where indeed they not only use it, but abuse it, by taking more Crops after their Foldings, than their Ground is able to bear; by which they reduce it to such a condition, as it is neither profitable for Corn nor Grass for manie years to come; Yet if rightly used, I account it a most excellent and profitable part of Husbandrie, especially for these Grounds that ly betwixt Moor and Dale as they call it, which are ordinarlie the most improvable Grounds in the Countrey.

I do therefore advise the Tennent to Dung his Folds well and throughly, and yet never to take any more Crops than three, or in extraordinary good Grounds and well Dunged, four at the most; by this Method the Ground will soon come to a Sward again, and be fit for the same

same use, the strength of the Ground being that way preserved.

But if any think fit to Lime these Foldings, let them lay on their Lime with the verie first Cropt: And as they Dung their Folds in the Summer-time, with the same breath, let them spread on the Lime; I know they use to do it the second Cropt, but I assure you the first is best, because no part of the strength of the Ground is exhausted, and consequentlie it will endure the longer. Next, the Lime so mixt with Dung, will imprignat, and so have effect upon the Ground the verie first Cropt, more than it will do otherwise for two Cropts to come, for this is a true maxime, never lime Ground when it is weak, for then the lime wants Matter to work upon, and generalie does more hurt then good; but when ye have brought your Ground to the greatest Strength it is capable of, then lime and you shal find profit.

As for these Grounds which you intend to lime that hath not been Folded, I approve of laying on the Lime on the Lee Ground, that is to say before it be plowed, rather than after Fauching, and more especially if the Ground be light, because Lyme being of a subtile spirituous piercing Nature, tends alwise downward, and being laid upon Fauch-land, it falls into the Furrows, and having no Crust to support it, consequentlie stayes not above so long, as when it is laid upon the grassie superface, where fixing by the Summer showres into the Roots of the Grass, it incorporats with the Superface of the Earth, which is ordinarlie the best and

fertilest part of the Ground, and thereby renders it Mellow and fit for receiving the Seed.

I confels indeed in strong Clay Grounds, if ye fallow before and after a frostie winter, harrow well in the Summer time by thortering and other wise before you lay on your Lime, it is very good husbandry ; Therefore I do advise you to lay on your Lime alwise (if by any means you can) in the Summer time, for by winter liming ye lose a great deal of it both by Snows, Rains and Frosts, which chills too soon such a delicat hot manure as lime is, and carries it to the Ground before it be incorporate therewith ; Lyme therefore your Clay-land in the summer, Fallow it at Lambas, Harrow it well after the first Frost, Seedfur and Sow it some time in *February*, and through GOD'S Blessing, you may expect a good Cropt of Oats thataine year.

Or which is much better, if ye fallow upon Clay-Ground in the winter time, plow and harrow it over again betwixt and *Lambas*, sow it at the time appointed, which will do very well : But for the Reasons above-specified I think it will not last so long as when it is laid on upon Lee.

I advise you to take no more Crops of your lymed Ground without resting, than seven or eight in the best Grounds, five or six in Grounds which are not so good, three or four in your worst, and generally according to the strength of your Ground, ye may take more or fewer as ye see Cause.

But if ye intend to reduce it into a part of your

ren- your Infield-Ground, and give it the ordi-
 Seed- nary Goodings in its Towers, then ye may con-
 ds, if tinue it as long as ye think fit, but by no means
 ter, let it bear above three or four years before
 ring dunging, by this gentle Treatment of your
 ne, it Lands, you may safely plow your lymed Lands
 ad- after three or four years resting, for two or
 any three years together and find good increase. By
 r by which you will get als many Crops after your lime,
 both as now you use to do and much better, tho' at
 too a greater distance, and still your ground in good
 and Condition, no ways run out, as experience teach-
 rpo- eth us, but als capable to be improvén as for-
 clay- merly.

Har- Cold Clay requires a greater quantity of lime
 and then light dry Ground, and moist Clay more
 ough then dry Clay, because it requires the more
 cropt heat to overcome and qualifie its moisture.

But I am of opinion that take your moister
 upon Clay Grounds, and these who ly upon a La-
 and vel, so that the moisture has no descent from
 slow off them, and plow it twice or thrice, I mean
 very gather the Rigs up to as great a hight as you
 ed I can before limeing, then lime according as has
 laid been before directed, and I doubt not but ye
 your shal find als great an increase as upon any other
 n or Ground whatsomever.

This also I must say for all hanging Grounds
 in general whither Infield or outfield, that they
 Gro- lose a great deal of their strength & Goodings
 ur in by their winter Rains; And therefore I pre-
 o the fer the lavel Grounds as best, not only for Grasse
 re of but Corn, providing alwise they have no
 rt of Springs nor unnatural Summer Moisture within
 your

B ;

them,

them, those who are such, must be ditched and drained, and kept from Pasturage; But all the prejudice the Husbandman sustains by the other, which is onlie by the Supervenient Rains, and runnings from of other Grounds in time of Winter may be easily remedied by a little patience in waiting until such time as they are dryest, and this both for Plowing and Sowing, & so this will rather tend for their benefit than prejudice, for I can assure you there is scarce anie better point of Husbandrie, then to contrive some level piece of Ground, so as it may receive or gain what the higher lying Lands lose.

In all moist clay Ground you should make your Ridges Narrow, Straight and high, gathered without turnings and windings, as ordinarlie they are, that so the Rain and Moisture may have free passage to the Furrows.

Everie distinct break of Land should have Head-rigs and Foot-rigs well & exactlie gathered up, and alwise kept in good order, by this you preserve not onlie your Ground from the impetuous fall of Rains that come from the hills above, but you do also preserve the goodings from running off the saids Lands by the use of the Foot-rig, and thereby does observe the Act of Parliament made for preserving of high waies. Thus much of lining onlie, I do not advise the limeing of the Infield-Land, rather let it rest. And for these who have much Outfield Land in their Rooms, to endeavour by limeing to bring in als much Ground as will answer for a fifth Division or Break; And this by ordering it as I have already advised, will become

become as good Infield Land as anie they have, and continue as long.

As for the Fauching of Out-field Land without anie design of Liming it, I cannot much advise you to it, unless you have great quantities of it, especially of Moorish-Ground, upon which ye delign to bring a stool of Grass, and this also is most effectually done by Liming, but where that cannot well be had, you must follow the next best.

But if ye will fauch, Winter-fauching is certainly the best for such an Improvement, and two Crops in bad Ground, and three in the best, is sufficient for a time.

But in regard the Roots of the heath and heather are not so easily got out, & destroyed after two years rest, you may plow it again for one year, and so furth, till it take the desired effect.

For Grass, I know it is a verie great rarity in *East-Lothian* amongst the Husbandmen, neither can they well have it (as at present their Farms are ordered) unless they turn some part of there infield Land to Grass, & lime as much of their out-field Land as corresponds thereto, and reallie I know not whether that Method might not prove in time the best Husbandrie for all the infield Land, notwithstanding the Charges and Expenses thereof, it could not be done indeed suddenlie, and quicklie, but the way is easie and obvious enough, and would quicklie defray its own Expenses; For ye may remember I said before, that the outfield Lands are the lightest and highest Grounds, and being generallie of a verie good Soil here in *East-*

Lothian, which is evident by their bearing very good Wheat and Pease after limeing, and yet bearing no considerable Quantity of Grass, as by sad experience is found, and the infield on the other side being capable to prove very good Pasturage, and generally able to produce very good Hay when right ordered, as some Gentlemen who hath done so hath found by Experience; For these Reasons, I say there might be such a change, and that with very great profite both to Landlord and Tennent.

But this being designed only as an A, B, C. or Introduction to (I hope) better things, I shal not insist upon it, least it choak you too much.

Therefore I do only advise you, that ye may have at least some Grass to keep your beasts in good Condition, who must assist you to improve your grounds, to endeavour to choose out some of the most convenient and moist places you can, where-ever it is to be found in your Ground: and set it apart for horse grass, the Horses must work all your Work, lead all the Materials for Improvement, which is indeed the greatest Charge they deserve, therefore to be well seen too, their work being rather more in Summer than in winter.

Having found out such a piece of Ground as is above described, I must intreat you (for now single advice I fear will not do) to get it inclosed.

I have observed so many useless Stones lying upon most of the laboured Grounds in *East-Lothian*, that as it would be a good piece of Husbandrie to free the Land of them, and thereby

by save both Oak and Iron, and ease Smith, Plowman and beasts to the boot, so it would be no difficult task to rickle up a dry Stone dike round any piece of Ground so designed.

If you have not the Conveniency of Stone near you, a good strong earth Dyke and Ditch will do very well, both which your Servants at their spare hours may very well do without any Charge to their Master, and I am very confident your Masters will furnish you with Trees and hedge Timber to plant round the same.

This will prove great advantage to you, more than if it were bearing you red Wheat, as they say :

For first, it will save you the Expense of a horse hire, sometimes two; for if all your horse be not at the work, two or three must have a herd to keep them.

Secondly, you will get your horses kept out all night, which indeed is very refreshing to a hard wrought beast to eat and rest himself at pleasure during a sweet pleasant Summers night, and more especially for mares who have their Foals sucking upon them.

Thirdly, Thereby you wil gain much more labour from your Servants, a great part of whose time was taken up in gathering Thistles and other Garbadge for their horses to feed upon in their Stables, and thereby the great trampling and pulling up and other destruction of the Corns while they are yet tender will be prevented. And this I must say is a greater prejudice than most of the Farmers have been aware of,

Fourthly,

Fourthlie, The Planting grown up will render it both more fertile and warm, and prove beneficial for upholding the Farmers houses, and Neat Graith, which I am of the opinion they should have for their incouragement, providing they so hain the Timber, that it may grow again.

And lastlie, where six or eight horses feed, the same Ground will maintain two good Cows for the House-wife, without doing prejudice to the horse-grass, for they will Feed most upon the Grass that arise from the horse dung, which is called Tath, as the horses will also do upon that of the Cows; and so the Ground will be kept verie clean, but by all means keep it free from Sheep, Summer and Winter.

For the remainder part of your Out-field Ground, I appropriat it all intirely for Sheep, for all the Out-field Lands being generallie high as said is, are fittest for them, and they are really most profitable when rightly ordered, both for your Family by their Milk and Wool, or by furnishing you either with a fat Sheep or Lamb, either for your Family, or the Butcher.

Besides their Pasture being kept clean from all other Beasts, they will prosper exceedingly, and be kept free from the Rot, which oftimes is occasioned by the Dung of other Beasts, which many poor Farmers in *East-Lothian* finds by woeful Experience, and then you will make the more Foldings, the more ye have of them, which is very profitable, as is above said: The old Proverb says, a Summer fed Ox, and a Winter fed Cow.

As

As for your Labouring Oxen, and other yeild Beasts, they require indeed to be well fed in some moist Pasture, tho' the Grass be coarse it matters not much, providing it be long, and enough of it, to fill their Bellies, which will likewise make them strong & fleshy, though not Fat, which is unnecessary, but for the Shambles.

Now since these dry Out-field Grounds cannot be a fit Pasture for your Oxen, neither will ye be willing to spare any more of your In-field Ground, as you do for your Horses, nor will I advise you: Therefore I think some place in the Muirs should be provided for them.

If the Commons of *Innerweck* and *Dumbar* were divided according to each Paroch proportion, who have Right and Interest therein, it would very well serve that turn, and might, by a Diligent and exact Care, keep some yeild Sheep upon the dryest parts thereof, but in this I am not resolved. But since it is not so, I could wish, that these who have Interest therein might meet together, and fall upon some ways, how to feed Oxen and yeild Beasts thereupon, rather than Sheep, for the Ground is generally so moist, that a man loses his Stock of Sheep oftner by Rot, than get any good by feeding thereupon.

It should also be Stinted and Proportioned, that in be not overburdened, & I am confident, by this way of ordering, it might not only feed & maintain all the labouring Oxen, of those who have Right of Pasturage on the same, but also of these who have no Right to it, who might be taken in for payment, as these who have the Property. Farmers in *Lammermuir* do the same to us now.

But

But till that be adjusted, the next best is for three or four Farmers in the low Country of *Lothian* to take a Farm in common amongst them in their Mure Grounds, where they may order things as their necessities require; and I am confident that this method, if rightlie gone about, would be found most profitable, and that several ways, with which I shall not trouble you at present.

Nota, It is most profitable for Gentlemen who have inclosed, or are inclosing large Parks about their dwelling houses.

Thus having gone through briefly and according to my design, the particular ways of ordering your Ground, I shall subjoyn thereto some some few generals, which if rightly gone about, and prudently applyed, will tend certainly for your Advantage.

Endeavour to plow all your Grounds as dry as you can. And all your Clay Ground as early as you can.

Sow all sorts of Grain as dry as you can, I mean the Ground being dry according to the old maxime, set wet and sow dry; yet if the Land be hard, being wet plowed, and having gotten no Frost to loosen it, in that case you must either wait upon a shower, or sow it in the founding, as they call it, that is to say, before it be fullie dry, and then be sure to harrow it well, intermitting a day, two or three betwixt the several harrowings; And by this Method ye may bring it to a tollerable good condition.

As

As to that common Countrie Ryme, sow Wheat Sinking, Pease Winking, Oats Clinking, and Bear Drinking; I make no such difference, onlie I doubt not but that all the honest Labouring-men will be content to sow all their Grains Drinking, as their hard labour, doth but equitablie require.

Wheat and Pease require to be Thicker sown than Barleie and Oats, and Wheat thicker then Pease, because it has the Winter storms to endure.

I approve the Method of steeping and moistning the Wheat in Bryme or Salt-water, and drying it with Lime before it be sown; It both makes it sow thick, warmeth the Pickle, and preserveth it from Fowls and Vermine: but whether it preserves it against being blacked, I have not yet found out, neither I fear shal, till it be certainlie known, whether that misfortune fall upon the Root or the Ear.

I think it also a verie good thing to moisten your Barley before it be sown, especiallie in dry Seasons, but not with Salt-water, Bryme or Lime, for that the Season of the Year will not admit, yet I do advise it where they sow Winter Barley.

Change your Seed often of all Grains, but especiallie of Oats; but remark, that it does best from a worse Ground to a better, and from a Colder to a Hotter.

Let your Seed Corn be likewise well dight, and the weakest of the Pickles taken from it, for the foulness and dirtiness of Grounds proceeds from

from the one, and the soon degenerating of the Seed from the other.

As for your houses, such as have them already built, must keep them as they are; but for building of new ones, let all sit-houses as they call them, stand East and West, their Doors and Windows to the South, because they are warmest.

Their Barns must stand North and South from the West end of their Sit-house, their Doors East and West, because the Wind blow most that way, and they are best for winnowing of Corns. If your Farm be large, I advise three Barns, one for Wheat and Barly, one for Oats, and the third for Pease, thereby you will be able to feed your Beasts equally with any sort of Straw that is most proper for them in its Season.

Their Barn-Yard to the West of their Barns, the best place for drying and winning of Corns in Stacks, and if it be a Colline rising Ground, so much the better.

Their Stable and Byres from the South-end of their Barns, East and West, their Doors to the North opposite to their sit-house, for the Conveniency both of Hearing and attending their Beasts, and furnishing them with Straw from their Barns.

Their Entry from the East, because that seldom or never there blows a high Wind from that Airth; And therefore your dunghill is least prejudged, but be sure to have no Entry, but one to your Closs, for two Entries blows away all

the all your Straw, and the other manure and dryes
 rea- the Dunghill too much: if you build a house for
 for Chaff, Strae, nait graith and such like things:
 hey build it on the East-side of your Clofs North and
 and South, so your Clofs will be the warmer, and
 rm- your entry to your sit-house being betwixt the
 North Gavil of your Chaff-house and the East
 Gavil of your sit-house, may be cleansed and
 kept clean, which the rest of the Clofs ought
 not to be.

Build all the Walls of your houses with stone
 and lyme, for Stone and Clay is the Destruction
 of all, the Rain moistens the Clay, the Stone
 and Timber slydes, the Wall falls, the Roof,
 Timber and all breaks, and so both men and
 beasts are in danger of their lives.

Cover your houses with a few Divots and
 plenty of Straw, which they call Thatch and
 Divot, take notice and mind them yearly by
 stinging them with Straw alwise where they
 begin to fail, but never add any more Divots, and
 you shall find great profite thereby, for the fre-
 quent falling of Houses consumes much time
 to the Tennent, besides the Charge and loss
 of it; Therefore I advise you never to put co-
 ver upon cover, otherwise ye may be certain
 with the first great Rain and Frost in the Win-
 ter Season, you will bring down the whole
 house about your Ears, although it be new and
 reasonably strong built.

Plant round all your yards with Ash & Elm
 trees, with which your Masters will furnish you,
 and in time they will serve to keep up the whole
 onstead,

Instead of Houles; & I am of opinion the Tenant should have the cutting of them, as I have said before in the like case, providing that he hain and preserve the old Stocks, that they may grow again.

For your Yard, I do not mean your Barn-yards, but a piece of Ground set apart for Cabbage, and other Roots, let it alwise be at the North-side of your Sit-house, where you may have a little door to go in at, by which it will be preserved from the Summer scorching Sun, and Southern Wind, the two greatest enemies to Kitching Grounds, designed only for ordinar things. I think half an Aiker of Land is sufficient for the Quantity, unless where the Farm is little, the Yard may be the less, a good large Grass Yard is also verie usefull upon many occasions.

For the ordering of your Yard, I shall propose nothing but what is both profitable and easie; In the first place, then plant Cabbage and Summer Kaill, which is all that is necessar for Herbage, Leeks, Sybous and other curious Herbs not being for your handling.

For Roots, I advile you onlie to sow Potatoes and Turnips, a larger or less quantitie as you affect most, but rather Potatuffes, because being once planted, they will never fail, they require little more labour than to keep the Ground where they grow free from Grass; The *Flandrian* Bowers make so much of this Root, and had such pletnie thereof, that both the Confederate and *French* Army found great support

port thereby, by feeding the common Soldiers most plentifully, it is both delicious and wholesome.

For Turnipes, you must sow them about the middle of *June*, and by *Hallowmas*, you will find them excellent Provision for your Family, take them up before the Frost come on, and hang them up on the Roof of your Victual house, and they will keep well the Winter, your Potatis succeed when the Turnips are ending, and your Cabbage may be preserved in the same manner, till your spring Kail come in.

The advantage of the Potatis is so excellent and useful, that in *England* and several other places Abroad, the poor People boyle them, dry them, mix them with a little Meal, kned them, and make them up in Bread, which is a most useful and wholesome Food, especially in times of Scarcity; Of the Joice of them also stilled, they make most excellent Aquavita; This is all that is necessary for you to have in your Yards, except it be some Turkie Beans, and for want of these, some good ordinar Beans and Pease, which will not only tend for the gooding and improvement of your Yard, but are verie good also to boyl with your Pork, and keep your Servans also from treading down your Fields of Pease, they are also verie useful for your Bees.

Each Farmer may therefore have one *Hive* or two of Bees, the ordering of them is so well known, that I shal not say anie thing, but that

C

they

they will be found very profitable, & no charge.

Be careful to gather as much Summer Dung as possible, Dung being the Mother of Corn, for that end buy Straw wherever you can get it, for bedding your Closes, Byres and Stables in the Summer time, it is ordinarily cheap then, and ye cannot bestow halfe a Merk better, than upon a Threave of good Wheat or Bear Straw, which being rightly used, will make more Dung then ten Threaves eaten by Beasts in the Winter time; but be sure not to neglect the shoveling and cleansing of your Close after every shower of Rain, then carry all to your Dung-hills, which you must carrie up equal and tight, all which are necessary for the equal way of Rotting, and though they seem trivial in themselves, yet they ought not be neglected.

Green Fairn or Brachens, if they be within a mile of you, are well worth your pains of bringing home; bed your Close with them, in the same manner as with Straw, it makes a most excellent Mannure, far above that of Rushes.

The Turfe of Mossie, or any sour, moist, Rushie Earth, may be well brought home a mile off, and may be either thrown into your Close, to be trode to Dung with your Beasts, or laid by Lares, as they call it, upon your Dunghill, which being covered afterwards with Dung, then with the Turfe, and so furth, which makes a most excellent compost, and it is alwise good to lay the Foundation of your Dunghill this manner of way.

Lyme

Lyme and Earth mixt and made up in **Heaps** in the **Fields**, after a years standing, proves a verie good **Manure** for the **In-field Land**, especially for these who are thin of **Earth**, as the preceeding compost is also.

Sea-Sand is good for **Clay Grounds**, for besides the **Saltness** by its **Sharpness**, it cuts the **Clay**, and saves much **Labour**, there is no loss to lead it a **Mile**.

In short, there is not an easier and more profitable way, then to mix **Mettal** with **Mettal**, that is to say, dig **Pits** in the **Ground**, and cover over your **Lands** two or three **Inches** thick, the light **Sandy Ground** with **clay Grounds**, and the **Clay-Grounds** with **Sand grounds**, try this but once, and ye will be perswaded of the truth of it.

Note, It holds also upon **Grass** the same way used, only it must be harrowed verie small.

If your **Grounds** ly within three **Miles** of a **Burgh** or **Village**, it is worth your pains to lead **Dung** all the **Summer** time, and lay it upon your **Wheat Fauch**, especially having a **Cart way** thereto. **Sea Ware** may be led two **Miles** with profite, and is most excellent for your **Bear Fauch**.

If a **Tennent** have a large **Farme**, he ought to abstain from all manner of **Work** himself, except in cases of necessity; It is an ordi-

nary saying, a good Grieve is worth two Workers, he needs not be idle though he work not with his hands, let him work with his Noddle, Project and Contrive, Grieve and Oversee the Execution of his Project; let him sow his own Corns, much depends upon a good and equal Sower: look to his Shearers that they shear clean, and reap that which GOD hath given them, the contrary of which I have observed, to be among the greatest faults of many in *East-Lorrian*, where generally speaking, I am sure they leave more behind them, than grows upon several Out-field Grounds in many places of *Scotland*, and at least the Seed of what they sow themselves.

This bad custome hath not onlie its rise but is supported by a certain Lasse Idle Employment, called gathering, which a Greedy sort of people have perverted from its proper usefulness, for whereas none should have the Liberty of gathering, save the Poor & Indigent People, who are not able to do any manner of Work, or the Children of those poor People, when they cannot come abroad themselves, and their Children fit for no Labour, or Service; Now it is become a Trade, and a verie cheating one too, for strong healthie people, and many of them no ways Indigent, hire Shearers in their place, that they may follow that unlawful Employment, and so eat the Bread out of the Poors Mouth: It is observable also, that they go likewise, where they have most Friends amongst the Shearers, and as amongst Soldiers every one

one follows his Leader, & then they are sure not to want; And now since the Farmers think it not worth their while to take notice of it, (though I think thir bad Crops bygone should teach them some Wisdom) I think the Justice of Peace should nortice it.

The Farmer himself should also cast all his Stacks to the proof, and see it well dighted; and for that end he should learn to Write, and know the common Rules of Arithmetick, that he may keep an exact Book of all his Sowings and Increase, he should also be every Night at the Redding of his Barns, and Lock in the Doors thereof himself.

In fine, he should frequent Mercats and Fairs, and know how all things are Sold and Bought; that so he may put off his old Oxen, and Horses, and other things: As also to Buy such things as are ncessary for him, at the best Advantage: By this Method, I am sure he shal never be idle.

I am against great Farms, it is almost impossible to improve a great Room to that advantage as a lesser; I think two Plows sufficient for the greatest, the Rent being about six Chalders of Victual, when the Ground is very good, and four in that which is not so good, but I am most fully convinced, they should take long Leases or Tacks, that they may not be straitned with time, in the Improvement of their Rooms, and this is profitable both for Master and Tenant.

Now having given you my Opinion in as few words as is possible, how to order all things to the best Advantage, I think it verie necessarie before I conclude, to teach you how to take Land, that is to say, how to make a good bargain with your Land-Lord, for the Lands you are to pay Rent for, and if ye succeed in this, it will prove a great Incouragement for you to bestow all the Pains and Charges I have required of you.

The Lands of *East-Lothian*, generallie speaking, pay all their Rent in Victual, which at the first view appears to be a verie easie way for the Tennents, he threshes out so much of the Product of his Ground, and delivers it to his Master for his Rent, gets his discharge and is neither troubled with Mercats nor ill Debtors, it doth also resemble also the Primitive simplicitie, when the use of Monie was not so much as known, and things went by Ex-cambion, or changing things of which we had more than sufficient, for those things we wanted, and stood in need of, as Corn for Cattle, Milk for Oyl, Wool for Flax, &c. But since the state of things are verie much altered now, from what they were of Old, I have observed this Victual-Duty to prove oft-times very prejudicial to the honest Farmer.

Therefore I do advise all Tennents to endeavour to take their Farms so, as they may have half Victual and half Money for their Rent, and that for these Reasons.

First,

First I have observed ordinarlie, the thing that breaks the Tennent is bad years, that is to say, bad Crops, when the Ground brings not furth according to its usual Fertilitie.

When the Crop proves bad the price of Viſtual ariſeth often to the Double, and Peaſe to the triple of what they are ſold at in the years of Plentie.

In theſe Years, the poor Tennent not having wherewith to pay his whole Rent, whatever he falls ſhort in a Year of Scarcitie, he is not able to make it up in two or three Years of Plentie, becauſe then the Corns ſell at a verie low rate, and ſo being once intangled with Debt, he is diſcouraged to proſecute his Labour with Diligence, Expenſe and Heartineſs, and ſo dwingels away to nothing.

Now ſuppoſe a Tennent, who pays ſix Chalders of Viſtual of Yearlie Rent, ſhould in place thereof, pay onlie three Chalders, and 300 Pounds *Scots* in Monie, which is the ordinar Account made of Viſtual in *East-Loathian*, for the Lands ſell generallie at 2500 Merks the Chalders, the intereſt of which is 100 pound *Scots* Yearlie, and thus the Chalder of Viſtual is worth a hundred pounds *Scots communibus Annis*.

Suppoſe then he pays 300 pounds, and three Chalders of Viſtual, and a Dear Year comes in the worſt of Years; generallie Tennents are able to pay four Chalders for ſix, at leaſt the half; So that by this Method, in a bad Cropt, he is alwiſe able to pay his Viſtual Rent, & if a good Cropt or two follow, he will be alwiſe able one way

way or other by sale of Beasts or otherwise, to recover his Money Rent.

But suppose he hath one Chalder to sell, that Chalder in a dear year will render him double Money, and sometimes more ; So that he will be but 100 pound in his Masters Debt by this Method, which a plentifull Year will easily discharge ; Whereas by the other Method he would have been in about four.

As to an Objection that may be made, that in cheap years, it will be difficult for the Tenant to raise 300. *lib.* out of his three Chalders of Victual, considering the low prices Mercat Charges, breaking of Merchants and such like, considering all things, I think there is no great weight in it.

For first, It is to be considered, that the Years of plenty may well bowe a Tennant, but can never break him,

Secondly, Your Land is either very ill taken, or else in plentiful Years ye will have a greater Quantity of Corns to spare then the exact three Chalders for which ye pay the Money.

And thirdly, The difference consists mainlie in the price of Oats, and Pease, for Wheat and Barly are seldom or never at less value then 100 *lib* the Chalder, and Oats (for few Tennents pay any quantity of Pease) made in Meal, will in the cheapest Years arise to near 80 *lib.* the Chalder ; So that there will be but twentie pound of loss upon the Chalder in the very cheapest Years, which is no great thing, considering that experience teacheth us, that the ruine of Tennents proceeds mostlie from bad Crops,

Crops, which by the Method proposed might be prevented.

And by the by, I must add this, that in plentiful Years, the making the Oats in Meal, is a very good part of Husbandrie, for there is evident advantage by the selling of it out in the beginning of Harvest, when all the unprovided and unfrugal must buy; As also for two years provision for your Familie, that in case of a succeeding bad Crop, you may sell and spare your Corns with advantage. For your Pease keep them by you in a cheap Year, for once in three Years ordinarily they will double the Stock.

And lastly, the provident Husband man will endeavour to reirup a Cow or Colt, and many otherways he may imploy his Corn when it is cheap, as by feeding of Swine, Poultry &c. All which will soon make up that small difference I have brought it too, and much more. There may some object, that the Master will not consent to make such an alteration, because he finds the value of Money is continually arising and it is but just & reasonable, that the price of Corns and Cattel should rise proportionally, for if the Government should make the 40 *shil.* pieces to pass for three pound *Scots*, which is a third more value then what it is. Is it not also reasonable, that I should raise the price of the Victual a third also, since the Money is no better and the Victual no worse then formerly, whatever value be put upon it. They say also, that the Conversion of the *ipsa corpora* to Money, is
a kind

a kind of Dilapidation; And the uncertain value of our Corn, is evident by the Conversion of Bolls of Victual payable to Abacies or the like unto half a Merk for each Boll, which is payed this day according to the value of the present case, whereas those who are in the same Circumstance with them, and who had not made the Conversion pay the full Boll this very day, It is also evident by the half-crown piece coined in *Regent Mortons* time, which now passes for a Crown.

In answer thereto, first, There is no good Master who will scruple such a thing, which evidently tends so much to the advantage of his Tennent and nothing of loss to himself, for when he gets 100 *lib.* for the Chalder of his Victual, he gets as much as the Interests of his money comes to, & his Money well secured besides, which is enough in all conscience, if he be not an Usurer.

Secondly, it tends to the general advantage of the Nation, for in a good Yeamandrie, both the Riches and Strength of a Nation consisteth, as Witnes our Neighbours in *England*.

3 As to the objection about the Coin, the altering and overvaluing of the Coin of a Nation, is certainly noways advantagious, but prejudicial to a National Interest, and ought not to be done, this is so evidently demonstrated by several hands already that I shal say nothing of it: Only if the Lands were set for Money, as is proposed, I hope these who are in the Government, who are generally all Land-Lord's would see that they and the Nation receive no prejudice that way.

Fourthly

Fourthly, Though this should happen, ye need not doubt, as all other things rises in price, the Rents of Lands will rise also.

And Lastlie besides all, it will in time give Incouragement for sewing, both to Master and Tennent, of which I shal speak next.

I observe the ordinary Methods with the Tennents in *East-Lothian*, is, when it pleases GOD to bless their Labours, so that their Stocks increase, then they take another Room, and after that a third, and so furth, and after all, comes a bad Year, and Dishes up all.

I would therefore advise a Tennent, when GOD blesses his endeavours, and he finds that he has some foregear, as they call it, that he would go to his Master, and tell him, he is content to give him some Monie, providing he will give him some ease of his Yearlie Rent. The Method I propose, is this.

If a Tennent pay six Chalders of Victual, or three Chalders of Victual, and 300 *lib. Scots* Yearlie, which I think the best way, or the half, third, fourth or fifth part of such a Rent; for as I said before, the six Chalers of Victual is the greatest Rent that ought to be in anie one Farm. This Tennent comes to his Master, and says, I will give you 2500 Merks, if ye will give me down a Chalder of Victual, or 100 pound *Scots* of my Yearlie Rent, and give me an Heretable Right to it, for my self, Heirs and Successors, for the remander part of the Rent, this can be made applicable for any Room of whatsoever Rent, or any Sum whatsoever offered proportionally.

This

This I do advise the Master to accept because if he be a frugal man, he knows how to make als good use of his Money, and it evidently insures the rest of his Rent; and if he be a Spendthrift, it is als good to take of his own as to borrow from his Neighbours, and possibly turn Bankrupt altogether.

If the same Tennent purchase more, I do advise both Master and Tennent to do the same till the half Rent, or at most two parts of the Rent be thereby exhausted, and thereafter the Tennent & his Successors are to pay the Superplus to the Master for ever, & are to be obliged to keep good Horse & Arms to attend him, and maintain their Houses in good and sufficient condition, and this I call feuing of Land.

I know this is not the ordinar and strickest way of Feuing, according to the Feudal Law, or conform to the practice in some places, especially in the West of *Scotland*, where, upon the death of the Master or Tennent the Feu-duty is doubled, and for that of a singular Successor, the whole intrinsick value of the Lands so holden for a year, is payable to the Landlord, where also several Clauses anent Alienations without consent of Superiors, and other unreasonable irritant Clauses place against the poor Vassals, whiereby when an unjust and hard Master succeeds, or very frequently a Lawyer, there are many evident Advantages to be taken by reason of the Ignorance of the poor Vassals.

But

But as I dislike such Courses, so what is said is all which I understand and mean by Feuing: And it seems most reasonable, that as I will not advise Masters to diminish their Rents above the one half, by this new way of Feuing, So that I should not subject the poor laborious Husband-man to any irritant Clauses, neither to vast Entries, which in time probably may destroy both him and his Succession.

Thus in as few and plain words as I could, I have finished my Advice, that what is said may be easily understood by the meanest Capacity. I have used your own dialect and form of speaking, I wish from my heart you would follow and practise what is soily Writ and intended for your Instruction, which will encourage me to a second Treatise, for Husbandrie is an inexhaustable Treasure; there are many Excellent things to be said upon it, both new and old, but *Paul* may Plant and *Apollos* water, yet it is GOD who giveth the increase, which that he may do, be diligent in prayer for the blessing of the everliving GOD upon your endeavours, that you may be blessed in your Basket, blessed in your store, blessed in your Heards, that your Pastures may abound with Flocks, and your Valleys with Corns & that he may set a Hedge about you & all that you have, & may be your God and the God of your Seed, & to let you see by this excellent Mixture of Spiritual with Bodily Exercises, that you are as happy as a World can make you, and thereby preserved from

From Envy, and consequently render you absolutely contented with your own manner of Life. I shall conclude with a Poem, in commendation of a Country Life, and the Pleasures attending the same, as followes.

A POEM in Praise of a Countrey Life, and the Pleasures thereof, in Imitation of Virgil in the Epilogue of his second Book of Georgicks.

A *Gricula in curvo terram dimovit aratro.
Quos ramifructus quos ipsa volentia, rura
Sponse tulere sua carpsit.*

I Sing the Pleasures of a rural Life,
Void of all carping care, & wrangling strife,
Blest with bright Phœbus Beams, Birds bear
(their part.

With charming Notes, without acquired Airt
They warble furth their Makers Praise so High
As frightens Night and rouseth slumbering Day.
None beats their Time, and yet they all agree
Without a Book in perfect Harmonie.

Bass, Counter, Tenor, Triple there you'll hear,
There's no discord to choack a tender Ear.

All play their parts with a melodious Sound,
From topping Rocks while Echoes answer round
The drowsie Trees awakened with their call
Burst furth in leaves where instantly they fall
With all the cunning that can be exprest.

In various forms to build their circled Nest,
Where they may Nestle and bring forth a quire
Of well set voices for the coming Year.

The

The chearful Lambs attending on their Dames;
 In sprightful skips perform their harmless games
 Whiles in a croud they run and one doth gain
 Who's straight applauded by his following train
 Another runs alone while all *look* on,
 And cheers his Mettal with a pleasant Tone,
 Yet all obey when call'd and each doth know,
 By his Dames voice to which place he should go,
 They running call and calling run with haist
 To quench their drought by sucking of the breast
 The other Beasts in herds both wild and tame
 With gentile pace feed through the flourie plain
 Forget their Winters toil and stormie Showers
 And seem delighted with the vernant Flowers
 Under the shades of Arched Groves they rest,
 Then up again and feed where they think best
 Not dyeted by Plowmans straitned hand,
 Both ease & Food they have at their command
 So free from care they drink the pearled streams
 Breath a pure Air and shuns Appollos Beams.
 Mountains they mount and vernant meads with
 (haist

Are all cut down to please their wanton taste.
 Ceres makes haste to hoord up plenteous Store
 For man and beast when Spring can do no more,
 Fish, Fowl and Beasts brings forth all what
 (they can,

And mother Earth produces all for man.
 The tender Grain by hopeful Peasants Sown,
 No sooner Roots then up again its Grown.
 The Blade the Stalk, and then the tender Ear,
 In its green Cover softly doth appear.
 Fearing the blustering wind it pipes about,

Finding

Finding all fair it Gentle ventures out,
 Then franklie nourish'd by Earths fatning Clot,
 It forms its Kirnal in its chaffie Coat.
 Which warmed by *Appolo's* warming Rays,
 Blade, Stalk and Husk apparantly decays.
 The Ear does bow his head, the Stalk doth bend,
 And doth the Sickle with consent attend.
 Thus Flowers do blow, and fruit Trees throu
 (the Field.

As Bees their Honie, Cows their Milk do yield,
 The painful Swain collects what Nature gives,
 Clothed with content, most happie he lives.
 Can Court or Camp, can Bench or Bar afford,
 Such innate pleasures to its fretful Lord.
Galen may kill, not cure, and Merchants cheat,
 Sea-men may drink and swear, and rivals hate,
 Strumpets may pox the Sparks, and they in pain
 Prompt with revenge, may pay them back again
 The Priest may baul at all, yet long to trie
 These amorous moods, themselves to mortifie.
 But happie he who *Aglaus* like doth dwell,
 Within the confines of his Countrey Cell.
 And whose content doth free him of the sense,
 Of deadly vice and its Experience.

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